

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /070 W  
----- 030386

R 111301Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1967

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3431

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON MIDLINK EXERCISE AND DIEGO GARCIA

REF: COLOMBO 3372 (NOTAL)

1. AT MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 10, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, REPORTEDLY COMMENTED ON MIDLINK EXERCISE AND DIEGO GARCIA. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "CEYLON DAILY NEWS", JAYAKODY REITERATED GSL POSITIONS: "WE DO NOT WANT BIG POWER RIVALRY IN AREA." THEN, REPLYING TO A QUESTION, HE REPOREDLY SAID THAT SRI LANKA HAD CONDEMNED CENTO EXERCISES AND HAD OFFICIALLY PROTESTED OVER DIEGO GARCIA. HE ALSO IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL MADE IT MANDATORY FOR COUNTRIES IN REGION AS WELL AS OUTSIDE TO KEEP REGION FREE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY. THEY MUST ALL COMMIT THEMSELVES TO DE-NUCLEARISATION AND DENY USE OF TERRITORIES, WATER AND AIR IN REGION TO NUCLEAR POWERS, HE SAID.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE UNAWARE OF GSL'S "CONDEMNATION" OF  
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CENTO MIDLINK EXERCISE AND BELIVE JAYAKODY'S COMMENT RE

PROTEST ON DIEGO GARCIA PROBABLY IS REFERENCE TO PM'S  
FEBRUARY 11 LETTERS TO U.S. PRESIDENT AND BRITISH PRIME  
MINISTER AT TIME DIEGO EXPANSION WAS ANNOUNCED. NO GSL  
OFFICIAL HAS RECENTLY SPOKEN TO US ABOUT EITHER MATTER AND  
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION TELLS US NO ONE HAS APPROACHED  
IT. COMMENT ON DENUCLEARISATION AND DENIAL OF ACCESS  
TO NUCLEAR POWERS IS SOMEWHAT DISTURBING AS IT  
COULD INDICATE SOME IMPETUS TO REVIVE NON-NUCLEAR DECLARA-  
TION IS IMMINENT IN CONNECTION WITH SHIP VISITS. BELIEVE  
IT MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT JAYAKODY WAS MERELY TRYING  
TO DIVERT PRESS ATTENTION FROM GSL'S AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE  
TOWARDS OUTSIDE MILITARY PRESENCE AND ITS POLICY OF ALLOWING  
ACCESS TO COLOMBO TO SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBINED MILITARY EXERCISES, NAVAL EXERCISES, DIEGO GARCIA, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974COLOMB03431  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUN 2002  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>  
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EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMENTS ON MIDLINK EXERCISE AND DIEGO GARCIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CE  
**To:** STATE  
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